



Auburn, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Tukwila and Port of Seattle

VALLEY INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE TEAM FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 December 2020

Contact: Commander Todd Rossi, Tukwila Police Department, Valley Independent Investigations Team
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INCIDENT: Officer Involved Shooting at 310 T St SE in Auburn on 17 December 2020

The Valley Independent Investigative Team (VIIT) is serving as the independent investigative team for this incident. VIIT is a multi-agency team made up of investigators from seven south King County Police Departments (Auburn, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Port of Seattle, and Tukwila). With Auburn PD as the involved agency, their staff have been excluded from this VIIT investigation.

On 17 Dec 2020 Auburn Police Department personnel responded a 911 call in the 300 block of T St. SE. Upon arriving on-scene, Auburn PD personnel contacted an adult female associated with a vehicle in the area of the call. While in contact with the adult female, a male also associated with the vehicle and known to have an active arrest warrants returned to scene. As officers attempted to detain the male he tried to flee on foot. Auburn PD personnel followed the subject in a brief foot pursuit during which the subject displayed what appeared to be a firearm. During the foot pursuit, an Auburn officer fired his duty weapon striking the subject. Auburn PD personnel and Valley Regional Fire Authority personnel rendered emergency medical aid, but the subject died on scene.

The involved officer has 5 years of experience with the Auburn Police Dept and was uninjured during the incident. Following standard protocol, the involved officer was placed on administrative leave.

The deceased subject was identified as Nicholas Ellingson, a 37-year-old resident of Seattle. Following the incident, members of VIIT established contact with Ellingson's family and will keep them informed of the progress of the investigation.

Public notifications will be released weekly until the conclusion of the investigation. Media Inquiries regarding the Independent Investigation may be forwarded to Commander Todd Rossi of the Tukwila Police Department at (206) 391-8236.

As per Chapter 139-12 WAC, please note that information regarding any officer involved shooting cannot be released by an independent investigation team without first notifying the non-law enforcement community representative assigned to the investigation and the family liaison of the involved subject. VIIT will endeavor to incorporate questions received from the media into subsequent press releases.

{ A list of the VIIT investigators and agencies for this incident is available upon request. }

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